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ABSTRACT

This document discusses the recent measures of VCCS student outcomes by focusing on three areas: (1) graduation rate; (2) retention rate; and (3) further study or employment rate after graduation. The document provides definitions for the following five terms as they are used in the study: (1) Fall to Spring retention; (2) Fall to Fall retention; (3) graduation rates; (4) graduation transfer rate; and (5) graduate employment rate. It also contains tables comparing data from all 23 community colleges that make up the VCCS. The period studied begins in the fall of 1995 and ends in the fall of 2001. Some of the key findings of the report are as follows: (1) there has been an increase in retention rates in 2000 and 2001 academic years; (2) between-year retention is also increasing again after holding steady following several consecutive increases in the early 90s; (3) after several year of declining rates for students who began study in the early 90s, completion rates for recent entering classes are now stable; (4) there was an increase in the number of students who completed transfer programs in the 2001-02 academic year; and (5) within one year of finishing their studies, two thirds of graduates are employed by businesses in Virginia. (MZ)

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VCCS Student Outcomes

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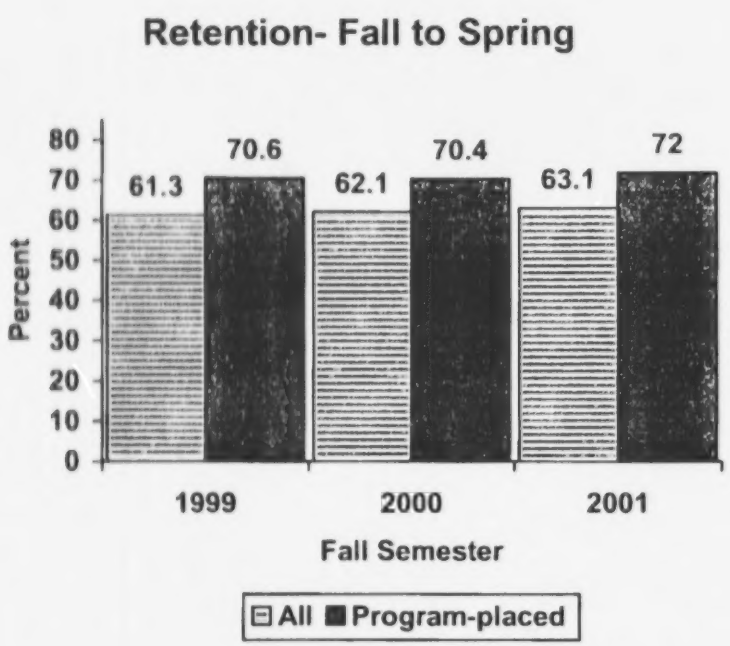
Recent Measures of VCCS Student Outcomes

This report pulls together recent trend data for several measures of student outcomes. These and many others are currently required by several state and federal agencies. Included in VCCS accountability responses are rates of retention, graduation, transfer, and employment.

A college's **graduation rate** is included as an indicator in almost all accountability programs. **Retention** and progression are also often included. Both reflect 'student movement' and are often viewed as output measures connected to efficiency. Beyond these, accountability mandates often address placement, either **further study** or **employment** after graduation, in attempts to address concerns with quality.

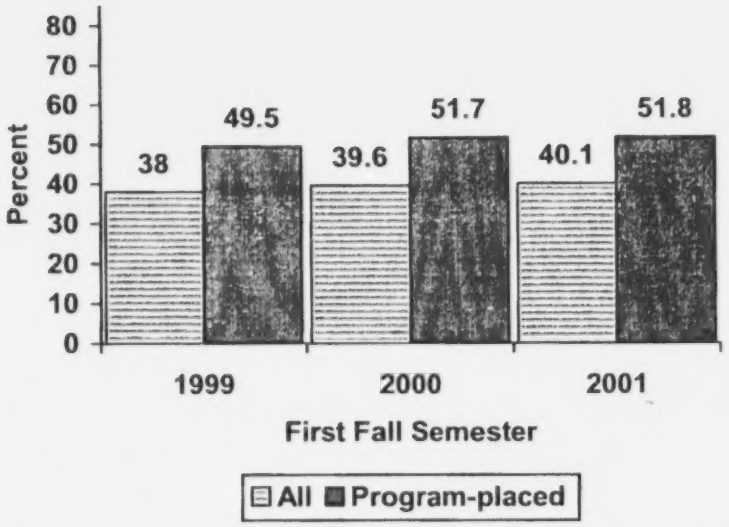
Although community colleges, including the VCCS, have questioned definitions and/or the application of the measures to community colleges, changes have been limited. The VCCS now supplies individual or combined rates of retention, graduation, transfer, and employment to SCHEV, VEC, and the federal DOE, primarily for the Reports of Institutional Effectiveness (ROIE), Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Re-certification, Student-Right-to-Know (SRK), and Perkins requirements.

For each measure, the variation most often supplied for accountability purposes or most often requested on an ad hoc basis is tabled below. College rates follow the definition section.



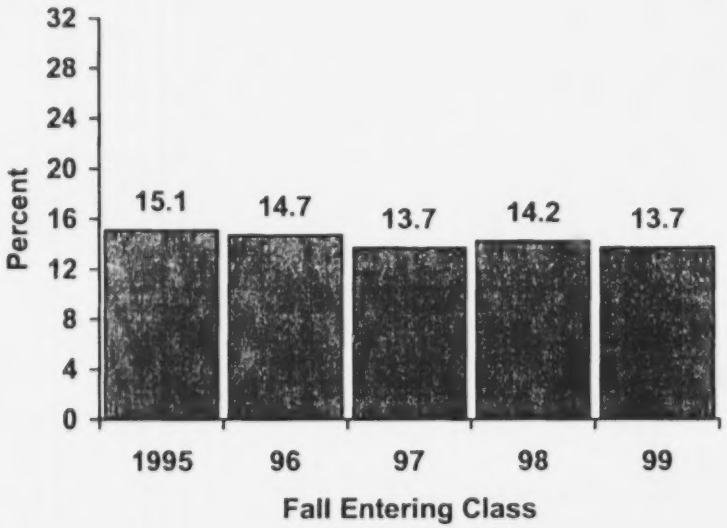
Within-year or spring term retention rates increased markedly in the early 90's.
After holding at the higher levels for the rest of the 90's, there has been an increase in retention for the last two fall terms.

Retention- Fall to Fall



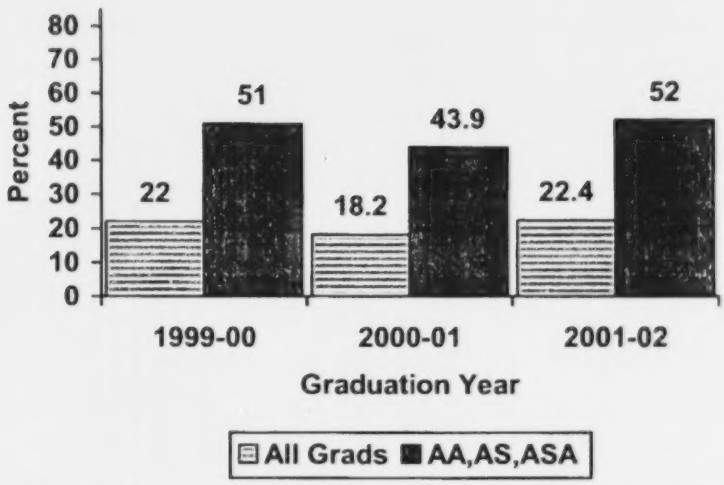
Between-year retention is also increasing again after holding steady following several consecutive increases in the early 90's.

Graduation Rates



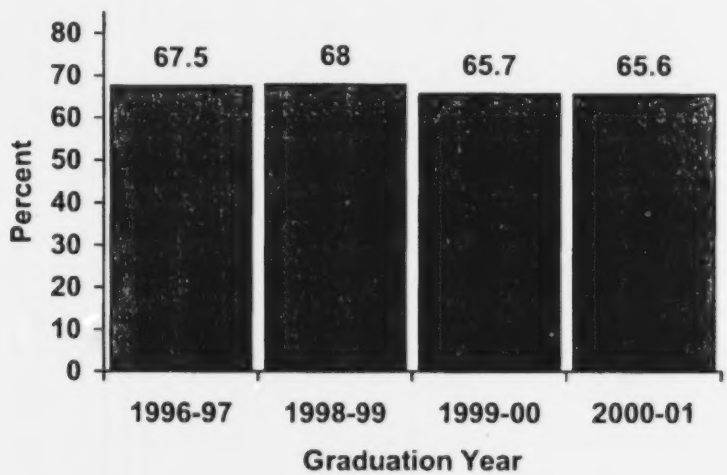
After several years of declining rates for students who began study in the early 90's, completion rates for recent entering classes are now stable.

Virginia Transfer Rates: Graduates



Typically 22 percent of all graduates transfer. The rate for students who completed transfer programs is above 50 percent. The rates for 2000-01 graduates are not typical.

Virginia Employment Rates: Graduates



Looking at graduates within 1 year of completing their studies, approximately two of every three graduates are employed by Virginia businesses and industries.

Definitions:
Fall-to-spring retention is the percent of fall student re-enrolling in the spring term, with separate rates for all students and for students with declared majors.

Fall-to-fall retention is the percent re-enrolling the next fall term. Separate rates were calculated for all students and those in programs.

Graduation rates are based on a fall cohort of first-time, full-time, program-placed students. The rate is the number completing in 150 percent of program length or three years divided by the total fall cohort. The rates tabled are IPEDS SRK, which includes graduates of the trailing (4^{th}) summer.

Graduate Transfer Rate is defined as the percentage of one-year's graduates who are enrolled at a four-year, public or private, institution for the fall semester after the graduation year, for example, 2000-01 graduates enrolled in fall 2001.

Graduate Employment Rate is defined as the percentage of one-year's graduates who are working, as reported in BLS UI files, for a Virginia business or industry in the 4^{th} quarter of the year in which the graduation ended, for example 2000-01 graduates working 4^{th} quarter 2001.

VCCS Students Returning in the Spring Semester

Fall	1999		2000		2001	
	All Students	Program-Placed	All Students	Program-Placed	All Students	Program-Placed
BLUE RIDGE	65.30%	82.00%	66.80%	77.10%	66.40%	80.60%
CENTRAL VIRGINIA	64.10%	71.10%	64.00%	71.90%	64.30%	75.50%
DABNEY S LANCASTER	63.00%	65.80%	61.70%	62.90%	70.10%	78.00%
DANVILLE	58.80%	77.70%	62.50%	73.70%	62.90%	79.30%
EASTERN SHORE	65.50%	68.90%	65.50%	70.90%	62.80%	77.70%
GERMANNA	67.70%	66.20%	69.00%	65.80%	67.00%	66.00%
J SARGEANT REYNOLDS	61.00%	72.90%	61.40%	69.20%	60.60%	69.80%
JOHN TYLER	61.10%	71.40%	63.60%	79.10%	65.40%	76.90%
LORD FAIRFAX	60.50%	76.50%	62.30%	72.10%	62.20%	71.30%
MOUNTAIN EMPIRE	63.40%	69.10%	65.50%	65.60%	66.50%	68.10%
NEW RIVER	61.90%	74.30%	61.60%	71.30%	65.80%	80.90%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	59.40%	70.40%	59.20%	70.00%	61.30%	74.10%
PATRICK HENRY	59.80%	66.10%	63.30%	66.20%	58.00%	70.30%
PAUL D CAMP	65.60%	64.80%	64.90%	61.60%	67.00%	59.90%
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA	52.60%	75.00%	54.80%	71.50%	58.10%	71.90%
RAPPAHANNOCK	60.70%	68.20%	60.90%	68.80%	64.10%	74.30%
SOUTHSIDE	59.60%	66.80%	59.30%	77.00%	59.70%	69.60%
SOUTHWEST	55.70%	60.60%	58.70%	66.00%	58.70%	62.60%
THOMAS NELSON	63.10%	68.40%	62.60%	67.40%	63.40%	69.50%
TIDEWATER	65.10%	71.10%	64.90%	72.20%	65.40%	71.80%
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS	66.70%	71.30%	69.00%	71.30%	68.50%	71.00%
VIRGINIA WESTERN	59.10%	69.90%	62.20%	71.00%	63.90%	73.00%
WYTHEVILLE	64.10%	78.10%	69.00%	79.00%	69.80%	73.90%
VCCS	61.30%	70.60%	62.10%	70.40%	63.10%	72.00%

VCCS Students Returning the Next Fall

Beginning Fall	1999		2000		2001	
	All Students	Program-Placed	All Students	Program-Placed	All Students	Program-Placed
BLUE RIDGE	41.50%	58.80%	43.40%	64.70%	45.90%	65.10%
CENTRAL VIRGINIA	34.50%	52.30%	37.30%	50.40%	36.70%	52.80%
DABNEY S LANCASTER	33.60%	50.30%	29.90%	42.90%	38.50%	61.40%
DANVILLE	33.20%	52.90%	34.60%	52.70%	35.90%	54.80%
EASTERN SHORE	37.40%	38.70%	37.60%	46.30%	36.50%	53.60%
GERMANNA	34.20%	42.70%	38.40%	47.70%	37.00%	48.40%
J SARGEANT REYNOLDS	36.40%	48.30%	37.70%	52.10%	36.70%	46.80%
JOHN TYLER	36.80%	50.70%	38.00%	52.50%	39.60%	52.90%
LORD FAIRFAX	37.70%	51.70%	39.50%	51.50%	38.80%	55.80%
MOUNTAIN EMPIRE	35.40%	42.40%	38.50%	47.80%	39.90%	44.50%
NEW RIVER	35.90%	52.10%	36.40%	56.30%	37.10%	58.10%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	40.40%	52.10%	41.50%	53.80%	42.00%	55.30%
PATRICK HENRY	39.30%	46.60%	39.50%	48.10%	37.90%	49.60%
PAUL D CAMP	35.40%	42.30%	32.30%	44.90%	37.30%	47.10%
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA	33.60%	53.80%	33.00%	50.30%	36.40%	52.40%
RAPPAHANNOCK	33.50%	51.70%	35.10%	51.10%	35.40%	49.30%
SOUTHSIDE	31.40%	44.40%	33.40%	50.00%	37.40%	45.90%
SOUTHWEST	36.90%	46.00%	37.80%	45.00%	36.50%	43.10%
THOMAS NELSON	40.40%	46.40%	42.20%	47.10%	41.70%	47.90%
TIDEWATER	42.00%	50.00%	43.90%	53.40%	43.80%	51.80%
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS	37.50%	52.80%	39.80%	51.50%	42.20%	54.20%
VIRGINIA WESTERN	34.80%	47.00%	37.50%	50.00%	39.10%	50.90%
WYTHEVILLE	30.80%	59.10%	36.00%	60.20%	39.00%	57.70%
VCCS	38.00%	49.50%	39.60%	51.70%	40.10%	51.80%

VCCS Graduation Rates					
Entering Fall:	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
BLUE RIDGE	22.60%	20.50%	27.70%	28.10%	25.77%
CENTRAL VIRGINIA	10.10%	5.26%	12.80%	20.80%	21.05%
DABNEY S LANCASTER	33.50%	30.20%	21.30%	30.00%	29.52%
DANVILLE	24.70%	26.30%	24.80%	21.70%	23.15%
EASTERN SHORE	18.80%	12.00%	16.10%	26.90%	15.09%
GERMANNA	22.50%	19.80%	21.00%	18.80%	20.72%
J SARGEANT REYNOLDS	13.10%	8.98%	9.14%	12.80%	9.32%
JOHN TYLER	12.00%	10.30%	11.20%	13.20%	10.34%
LORD FAIRFAX	34.90%	28.30%	25.80%	25.30%	24.33%
MOUNTAIN EMPIRE	20.40%	20.00%	18.70%	13.50%	17.15%
NEW RIVER	16.90%	20.40%	17.90%	22.20%	15.16%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	7.08%	7.56%	7.85%	6.88%	8.26%
PATRICK HENRY	13.20%	18.00%	17.10%	17.50%	21.28%
PAUL D CAMP	14.10%	14.40%	15.00%	15.60%	16.84%
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA	15.60%	13.50%	11.40%	12.20%	15.20%
RAPPAHANNOCK	18.20%	15.70%	12.60%	22.00%	20.00%
SOUTHSIDE	22.90%	24.20%	21.70%	18.50%	16.98%
SOUTHWEST	18.40%	24.00%	23.20%	19.40%	18.25%
THOMAS NELSON	10.60%	9.00%	8.01%	6.62%	8.00%
TIDEWATER	7.44%	9.53%	7.79%	9.66%	9.02%
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS	26.60%	21.80%	18.40%	17.60%	19.56%
VIRGINIA WESTERN	16.70%	15.90%	14.60%	16.30%	12.84%
WYTHEVILLE	20.10%	31.00%	22.20%	34.40%	33.33%
VCCS	15.10%	14.70%	13.70%	14.20%	13.71%

VCCS Graduates Transferring in Virginia						
Graduation Year	1998-99		1999-00		2000-01	
	All Grads	Only AA,AS,ASA	All Grads	Only AA,AS,ASA	All Grads	Only AA,AS,ASA
BLUE RIDGE	26.00%	55.00%	24.20%	50.80%	31.30%	61.05%
CENTRAL VIRGINIA	23.00%	57.00%	13.90%	31.80%	18.40%	50.80%
DABNEY S LANCASTER	13.00%	62.00%	12.80%	44.80%	15.60%	52.60%
DANVILLE	14.00%	70.00%	5.60%	36.20%	12.10%	54.70%
EASTERN SHORE	7.00%	24.00%	11.80%	33.30%	12.10%	45.50%
GERMANNA	33.00%	56.00%	35.70%	56.00%	35.10%	58.20%
J SARGEANT REYNOLDS	19.00%	58.00%	17.60%	56.40%	22.20%	58.70%
JOHN TYLER	21.00%	57.00%	18.90%	48.50%	19.10%	52.60%
LORD FAIRFAX	25.00%	48.00%	22.40%	43.90%	25.20%	48.90%
MOUNTAIN EMPIRE	9.00%	40.00%	7.40%	45.20%	10.90%	50.80%
NEW RIVER	16.00%	48.00%	17.10%	55.60%	20.80%	56.60%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	24.00%	43.00%	21.40%	39.90%	26.60%	47.50%
PATRICK HENRY	22.00%	54.00%	9.50%	29.30%	9.60%	45.90%
PAUL D CAMP	29.00%	48.00%	18.90%	32.80%	30.60%	51.50%
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA	26.00%	54.00%	22.50%	48.40%	30.20%	57.40%
RAPPAHANNOCK	13.00%	40.00%	10.10%	37.80%	17.60%	35.70%
SOUTHSIDE	22.00%	57.00%	15.40%	60.50%	15.60%	57.80%
SOUTHWEST	14.00%	49.00%	13.30%	39.80%	14.70%	47.50%
THOMAS NELSON	25.00%	52.00%	17.20%	37.00%	19.30%	52.40%
TIDEWATER	26.00%	54.00%	23.10%	46.90%	28.70%	55.00%
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS	23.00%	54.00%	12.40%	39.70%	18.90%	47.30%
VIRGINIA WESTERN	26.00%	57.00%	20.60%	38.00%	29.50%	54.80%
WYTHEVILLE	12.00%	59.00%	8.80%	54.00%	11.60%	47.50%
VCCS	22.00%	51.00%	18.20%	43.90%	22.40%	52.00%

VCCS Graduates Employed in Virginia				
Graduation Year	1996-97	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
BLUE RIDGE	82.04%	80.38%	76.09%	78.83%
CENTRAL VIRGINIA	74.38%	80.99%	74.21%	76.47%
DABNEY S LANCASTER	73.37%	77.27%	72.30%	74.47%
DANVILLE	77.40%	77.62%	74.59%	71.98%
EASTERN SHORE	62.71%	73.39%	67.74%	71.43%
GERMANNA	72.28%	75.25%	68.35%	70.76%
J SARGEANT REYNOLDS	81.51%	76.93%	74.59%	78.08%
JOHN TYLER	76.76%	77.44%	74.61%	79.11%
LORD FAIRFAX	71.04%	74.86%	70.92%	71.85%
MOUNTAIN EMPIRE	57.18%	56.87%	51.56%	51.72%
NEW RIVER	72.48%	76.01%	77.46%	70.35%
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	57.83%	56.51%	57.44%	55.66%
PATRICK HENRY	76.82%	68.84%	70.81%	69.24%
PAUL D CAMP	72.14%	69.63%	61.49%	64.18%
PIEDMONT VIRGINIA	74.91%	75.58%	69.45%	75.26%
RAPPAHANNOCK	69.74%	86.73%	74.31%	68.91%
SOUTHSIDE	76.75%	71.93%	66.58%	75.13%
SOUTHWEST	56.53%	56.94%	61.49%	54.37%
THOMAS NELSON	69.01%	66.09%	62.77%	58.53%
TIDEWATER	62.22%	65.14%	60.59%	60.99%
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS	65.43%	61.86%	59.29%	54.10%
VIRGINIA WESTERN	71.59%	78.92%	67.63%	71.68%
WYTHEVILLE	70.86%	71.06%	69.61%	73.62%
VCCS	67.46%	68.03%	65.65%	65.62%

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